

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

More important, Sinclair should not be able to use their media power to run a blatantly biased and widely repudiated documentary as "news". Balance is not provided simply by permitting John Kerry to appear to deny the charges. Balance would be more like running a pro-Kerry film like "Up River", or an anti-Bush film like "Fahrenheit 911".

I feel that Sinclair's action is a violation of the public trust, and that their license should be yanked. Only with a severe penalty of this nature can we send a message to stations that their broadcast license should not be used for partisan purposes. It would be one thing to call the film an "ad" and quite another to pass it off as fact. Distortions of this type only serve to undercut our democracy.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. Thank you.